

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A detaching/attaching mechanism in which a contacting member is supported so as to be detachable/attachable from/to a supporting member, comprising:

a holding member which supports the contacting member;

a pushing member which pushes the contacting member via the holding member, in a direction toward the supporting member, in order to cause the contacting member to be in touch with the supporting member,

by causing the pushing member to move in one direction, support of the contacting member by the holding member being released so that the contacting member is caused to be detached from the supporting member,

wherein, the holding member includes position regulating means for regulating a position of the contacting member with respect to the holding member, when the contacting member is detached from the supporting member, and when the contacting member is detached from the supporting member, the contacting member is provided on the holding member; and

a slide section, which is slidable with respect to a main body, includes a part of an outer covering and the pushing member, and an opening is formed in the main body and the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section,

wherein the contacting member is supported inside the main body when a part of the outer covering is opened, wherein the slide section is provided with a member which causes the contacting member to contact the supporting member when the part of the outer covering is closed, and wherein when the part of the outer covering is opened, the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by operation of the member of the slide section.

2. (Original) The detaching/attaching mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein, the holding member includes positioning means for determining a position of the contacting member when the contacting member is in touch with the supporting member, and the holding member supports the contacting member by the positioning means, when the contacting member is in touch with the supporting member.

3. (Original) The detaching/attaching mechanism as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a swing-move member which can swing and move in a direction toward the contacting member,

wherein, the pushing member includes a slide cam section, and by causing the pushing member to move in one direction, the slide cam section is engaged with the swing-move member so that the swing-move member swings and moves toward the contacting member.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The detaching/attaching mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein, the holding member includes a guiding groove which allows the contacting member to be detachable/attachable.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming device including a detaching/attaching mechanism by which a transfer supporter is supported so as to be detachable/attachable from/to an image supporter,

the detaching/attaching mechanism including:

a holding member which contacts an image supporter on which an image is formed in accordance with image data, so as to support the transfer supporter which transfer the image;

a pushing member which pushes the transfer supporter toward the image supporter via the holding member, in order to cause the transfer supporter to be in touch with the image supporter,

by causing the pushing member to move in one direction, support of the contacting member by the holding member is released so that the contacting member is caused to be detached from the supporting member,

wherein, the holding member includes position regulating means for regulating a position of the contacting member with respect to the holding member, when the contacting member is detached from the supporting member, and when the contacting member is detached from the supporting member, the contacting member is provided on the holding member; and

a slide section, which is slidable with respect to a main body of the image forming device, includes a part of an outer covering and the pushing member, and an opening is formed in the main body of the image forming device and the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section,

wherein the contacting member is supported inside the main body when a part of the outer covering is opened, wherein the slide section is provided with a member which causes the contacting member to contact the supporting member when the part of the outer covering is closed, and wherein when the part of the outer covering is opened, the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by operation of the member of the slide section.

7. (Currently Amended) An image forming device, comprising:

an image supporter on which an image is formed in accordance with image data;

a transfer supporter device including a transfer supporter which is detachable/attachable from/to the image supporter and transfers the image by contacting the image supporter,

the transfer supporter device being detached from the image supporter by performing an action of opening a part of an outer covering the image forming device,

wherein a frame member of a main body of the image forming device includes a rail member which guides the transfer supporter device when the transfer supporter device is detached/attached from/to the main body of the image forming device, and

the rail member includes: a plurality of positioning means for determining a position of the transfer supporter device with respect to the main body; and position regulating means for preventing deviation of the transfer supporter device with respect to the rail member, when a part of an outer covering of the image forming device is opened; and

a slide section, which is slidable with respect to a main body of the image forming device, includes a part of an outer covering and the pushing member, and an opening is formed in the main body of the device and the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section,

wherein the transfer supporter device is supported inside the main body when a part of the outer covering is opened, wherein the slide section is provided with a member which causes the transfer supporter device to contact the image supporter when the part of the outer covering is closed, and wherein when the part of the outer covering is opened, the transfer supporter device is detached from the image supporter by operation of the member of the slide section.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming device, comprising:

an image supporter on which an image is formed in accordance with image data; and

a transfer supporter device including a transfer supporter which is detachable/attachable from/to the image supporter and transfers the image by contacting the image supporter,

support of the transfer supporter device with respect to a main body of the image forming device being released by performing an action of opening a part of an outer covering of the image forming device,

wherein a frame member of a main body of the image forming device includes a rail member which guides the transfer supporter device when the transfer supporter device is detached/attached from/to the main body of the image forming device, and

the rail member includes: a plurality of positioning means for determining a position of the transfer supporter device with respect to the main body; and position regulating means for preventing deviation of the transfer supporter device with respect to the rail member, when a part of an outer covering of the image forming device is opened,

wherein the transfer supporter device is supported inside the main body when a part of the outer covering is opened, wherein a slide section, for opening the part of the outer covering, is provided with a member which causes the transfer supporter device to contact the image supporter when the part of the outer covering is closed, and wherein when the part of the outer covering is opened, the transfer supporter device is detached from the image supporter by operation of the member of the slide section.

9. (Original) The image forming device as defined in claim 7, wherein, the part of the outer covering of the image forming device is provided in parallel to an axis of a roller member which supports the transfer supporter of the transfer supporter device to be rotatable, and

the part of the outer covering is opened in a direction orthogonal to the axis of the roller member.

10. (Original) The image forming device as defined in claim 7, wherein, the transfer supporter device is detachable/attachable to/from a main body of the image forming device, and is detached/attached from/to the main body when the part of the outer covering is opened.

11. (Original) The image forming device as defined in claim 7, wherein, a frame member of a main body of the image forming device has an aligning member which determines a position of the transfer supporter device with respect to a main body of the image forming device, and the aligning member includes position regulating means for preventing deviation of the transfer supporter device.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming device as defined in claim 7, wherein, the position regulating means is a notch which is provided so as to face at least either one of the plurality of positioning means and regulates deviation of an axis of a roller member which supports the transfer supporter to be rotatable.

14. (Original) The image forming device as defined in claim 7, further comprising a blocking member (i) which is engaged with an image supporter unit including the image supporter, when the transfer supporter is in touch with the image supporter, but (ii) which is released from engagement with the image supporter unit and caused to move in accordance with an action of opening/closing the outer covering, when the transfer supporter is not in touch with the image supporter.

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming device, comprising:

at least one image supporter on which an image is formed in accordance with image data;
a transfer supporter device including a transfer supporter which is detachable/attachable from/to said at least one image supporter and transfers the image by contacting the image supporter,

wherein, detachment/attachment of the transfer supporter device from/to a main body of the image forming device is caused by movement of the transfer supporter device in a direction orthogonal to an axis of a roller member which supports the transfer supporter to be rotatable,

wherein a frame member of a main body of the image forming device includes a rail member which guides the transfer supporter device when the transfer supporter device is detached/attached from/to the main body of the image forming device, and

the rail member includes: a plurality of positioning means for determining a position of the transfer supporter device with respect to the main body; and position regulating means for preventing deviation of the transfer supporter device with respect to the rail member, when a part of an outer covering of the image forming device is opened; and

a slide section, which is slidable with respect to a main body, includes a part of an outer covering and the pushing member, and an opening is formed in the main body and the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section,

wherein the transfer supporter device is supported inside the main body when a part of the outer covering is opened, wherein the slide section is provided with a member which causes the transfer supporter device to contact the at least one image supporter when the part of the outer covering is closed, and wherein when the part of the outer covering is opened, the transfer

supporter device is detached from the image supporter by operation of the member of the slide section.

16. (Previously Presented) The image forming device as defined in claim 15, wherein, a plurality of said at least one image supporter is provided in a direction orthogonal to the axis of the roller member.

17. (Withdrawn) An image forming device, comprising:
a plurality of image supporters on which images are formed in accordance with image data; and

a transfer supporter device including a transfer supporter which is detachable/attachable from/to said at least one image supporter and transfers the image when a voltage is supplied from a plurality of transfer members,

said plurality of image supporters being provided in a direction orthogonal to the axis of the roller member,

the image forming device having: an image forming mode (a) with which all of said plurality of image supporters are caused to be in touch with the transfer supporter; and an image forming mode (b) with which at least one of said plurality of image supporters is caused to be in touch with the transfer supporter,

wherein, when the image forming mode (b) is selected, at least one of said plurality of transfer members, which corresponds to at least one of said plurality of image supporters not being in contact with the transfer supporter and is not provided at a proximity of an end of the transfer supporter device, is not in contact with the transfer supporter.

18. (Withdrawn) The image forming device as defined in claim 17, wherein, a distance between said plurality of transfer members and the transfer supporter is not less than 2.5mm.

19. (Withdrawn) The image forming device as defined in claim 17, wherein, a distance between said plurality of transfer members and the transfer supporter is not less than 4mm.

20. (Previously Presented) The image forming device as defined in claim 8, wherein, the part of the outer covering of the image forming device is provided in parallel to an axis of a roller member which supports the transfer supporter of the transfer supporter device to be rotatable, and

the part of the outer covering is opened in a direction orthogonal to the axis of the roller member.

21. (Previously Presented) The image forming device as defined in claim 8, wherein, the transfer supporter device is detachable/attachable to/from a main body of the image forming device, and is detached/attached from/to the main body when the part of the outer covering is opened.

22. (Previously Presented) The image forming device as defined in claim 8, wherein, a frame member of a main body of the image forming device has an aligning member which determines a position of the transfer supporter device with respect to a main body of the image forming device, and the aligning member includes position regulating means for preventing deviation of the transfer supporter device.

23. (Previously Presented) The image forming device as defined in claim 8, wherein, the position regulating means is a notch which is provided so as to face at least either one of the plurality of positioning means and regulates deviation of an axis of a roller member which supports the transfer supporter to be rotatable.

24. (Previously Presented) The image forming device as defined in claim 8, further comprising a blocking member (i) which is engaged with an image supporter unit including the image supporter, when the transfer supporter is in touch with the image supporter, but (ii) which is released from engagement with the image supporter unit and caused to move in accordance with an action of opening/closing the outer covering, when the transfer supporter is not in touch with the image supporter.

25. (Previously Presented) The detaching/attaching mechanism of claim 1, wherein the pushing member pushes the contacting member via the holding member when the position regulating means regulates the position of the contacting member to a final or locked position.